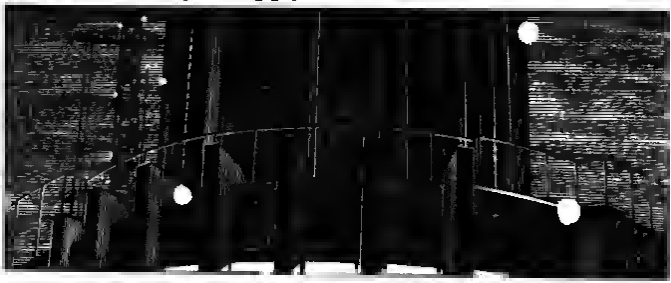
THE PAST IN A BLOODY CROSS [1]

Presented by Happy Scans



Translated by Molokidan Cleaned by Wright Typeset/Proofread by aloner

THE CROCODILE DISTRICT.

AKA...

THAT LAST JOB MUST HAVE REALLY WORN THEM OUT. THEY DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER GOING HOME...
YES... THEY'VE BEEN ASLEEP IN THE BEDROOM FOR TWO DAYS NOW.
ARE THOSE TWO STILL ASLEEP?
YES I ASKED THEM ABOUT IT, BUT THEY REQUESTED THAT WE LET THEM SLEEP FIRST...
YES... BUT THEY ARE INJURED, AREN'T THEY?!
I SEE...

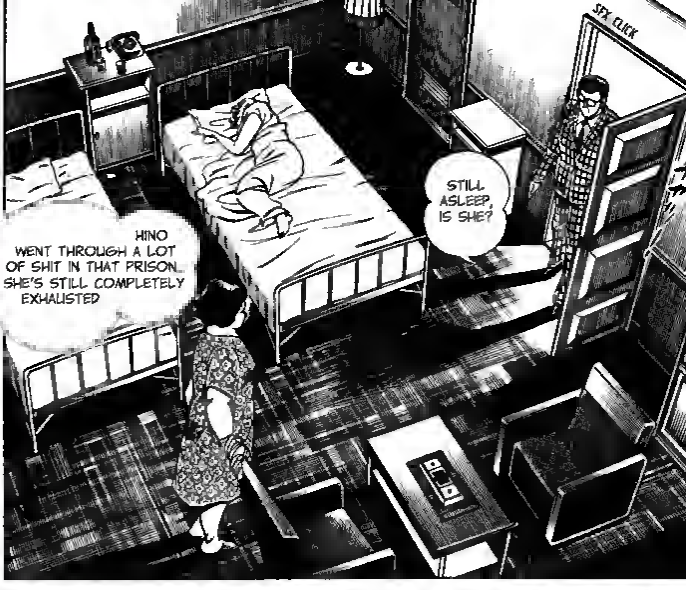
HM? MIKA!
AHH... THAT FELT GOOD ...
FUA AAHH!
FUU UU...

I'M JUST TOO HUNGRY TO SLEEP ANY MORE
YOU'RE REALLY CATCHING UP YOUR SLEEP TOO, I SEE...
WOW... I GUESS WE SLEPT FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT
I DUNNO
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE?
WHAT TIME IS IT?
AND MAKE MYSELF A POT OF COFFEE!
GUESS I'LL TAKE A SHOWER...
AND YOUR EYES?
HOW DOES YOUR BODY FEEL?
MMM... I'M GOING TO STAY IN BED FOR A LITTLE BIT LONGER.
I'M FINE...

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? I'M PRACTICALLY IMMORTAL! I'LL BE ABLE TO USE THEM IN ANOTHER WEEK OR SO DUNNO WHAT THE DOCTOR'LL SAY, THOUGH...
OH, MY HANDS?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
THEY DON'T HURT ANYMORE YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY.
SFX FSSSH
SFX. SHAAAAHHH

SFX FSSSSH...
SFX TOK

LOOKS LIKE OUR SLEEPING BEAUTIES WOKE UP.
YEAH... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO SLEEP THAT LONG
SFX KNOCK
WHO IS IT?!
THEIR BODIES ARE DIFFERENT FROM OURS, THAT'S FOR SURE. MAYBE THEY'RE EVEN EQUIPPED FOR HIBERNATION!
LADIES, HUH..?
ALL RIGHT
OH, HOLD ON A SECOND! LADIES ARE CHANGING IN HERE!
OKE!, YOUR BOSS!


SFX: CLICK
STILL ASLEEP, IS SHE?
HINO WENT THROUGH A LOT OF SHIT IN THAT PRISON. SHE'S STILL COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED

OH, NO. THE TWO OF YOU LOOK HARDLY RECOVERED. I WANT YOU TO SEE A DOCTOR.
ENOUGH DANCING AROUND, BOSS. YOU CAME HERE TO GIVE US OUR NEXT JOB, RIGHT?

EXCELLENT WORK BACK THERE.
I HEAR THAT PRISON REALLY WAS HELL. I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE BOTH ALL RIGHT

A BONUS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ALSO, THE HQ PAID US A BONUS FOR OUR WORK ON THIS LAST JOB, SO I WANTED TO HAND IT OVER TO YOU.

WELL, THE TRUTH IS...
HMMM... I GUESS THEY REALLY CAN BE GENTLEMANLY WHEN THEY TRY HARD ENOUGH!
THINK OF IT AS "INSURANCE" FOR THE DANGEROUS WORK YOU DO EACH MONTH.
WELL, THAT'S ABOUT IT. THE JOBS YOU ARE HANDLING ARE HIGHLY DANGEROUS, SO I THINK IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT YOU DID AND THE HO SEEMS TO HAVE AGREED AS WELL.
OH... YOU'RE AWAKE TOO?
M... MIKA?
I REQUESTED IT.
RIN... HOW MUCH IS IN THERE?
WOW... DON'T MIND IF I PARTAKE, THEN!
EACH ONE CONTAINS A CHECK.
I'LL LEAVE THE ENVELOPES HERE

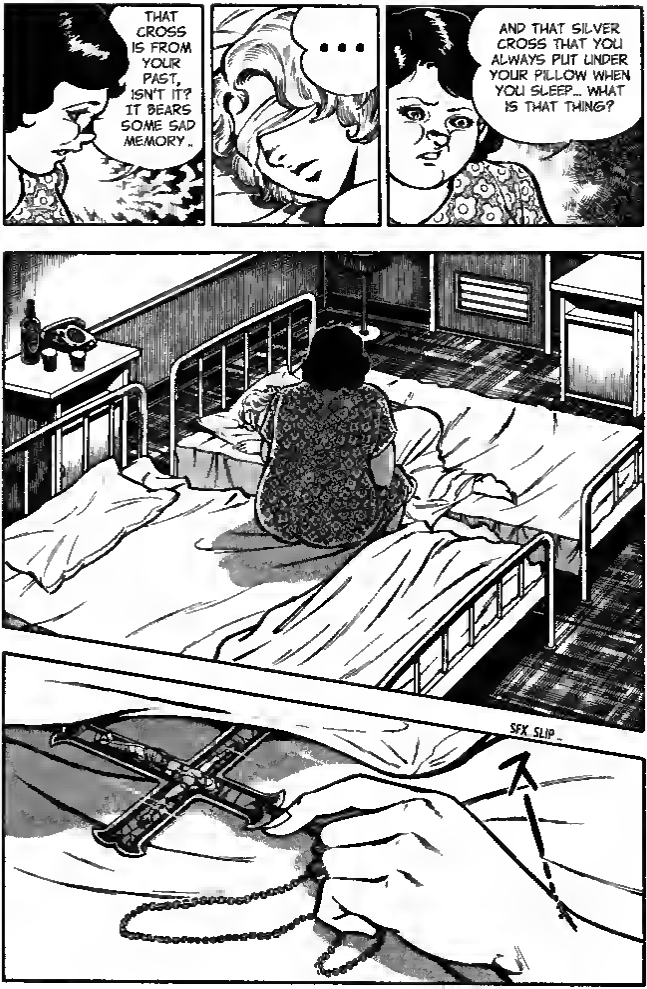
HOW MANY ZEROS ARE THERE?
...
HUH...
UHHH... FIVE ZEROS!
UMM... ER...
SFX JERK
WH-WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, MIKA?! HOW DARE YOU?! YOU SHOULD BE THANKING THEM!
SEND THEM BACK.. THAT'S ONE ZERO TOO LITTLE.
...
HA!!!
M... MIKA?!

THESE DAYS, WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUT ON MAKEUP AND MAKE THEMSELVES PRESENTABLE BEFORE THEY GO OUT IN FRONT OF PEOPLE
I THINK YOU HAVE IT BACKWARDS, BOSS
ME, THANKING THEM?!
BESIDES, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BARGED INTO THE ROOM OF A SLEEPING WOMAN.
MIKA...
...
EXCUSE ME?! AND JUST WHAT IS UNACCEPTABLE ABOUT THIS SUIT?!
LET ME ASK YOU THIS— ARE OUR LIVES ONLY WORTH FIVE ZEROS? HUH?!
ALL RIGHT, BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO ACCEPT THAT SUIT.
FINE THEN, I'LL WAIT! COME AND SEE ME WHEN YOU'RE READY!

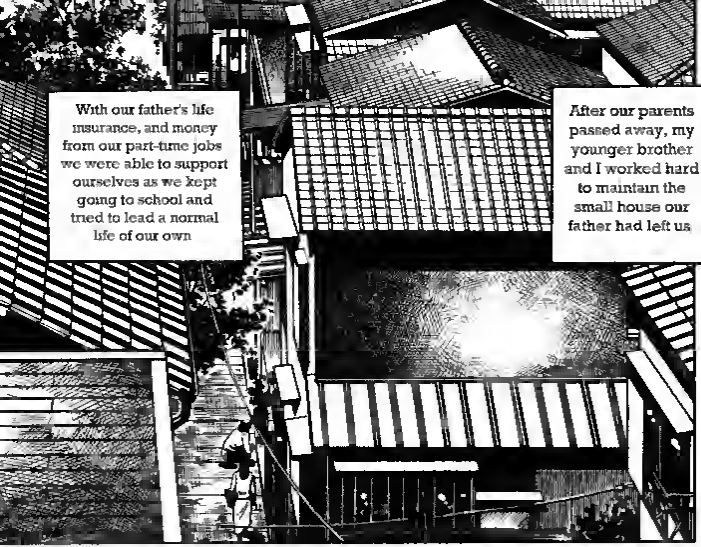
SFX: JERK

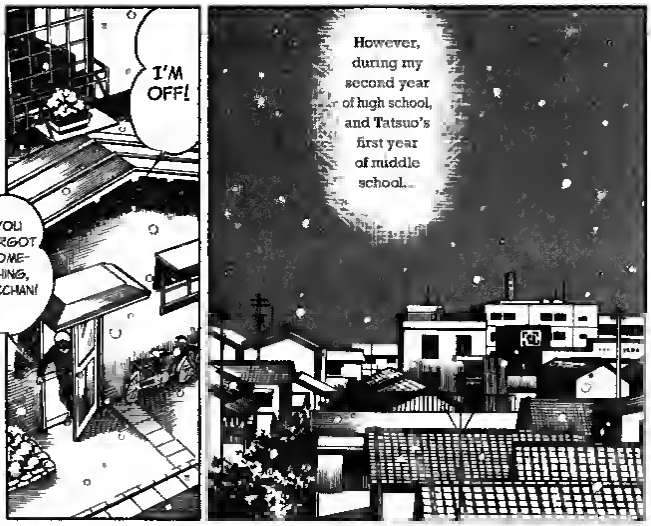
EVERY PERSON IN THIS OFFICE HAS NO FAMILY OR CHILDREN! ONLY PEOPLE WHO ARE TRULY ALONE ARE ALLOWED TO WORK HERE, BECAUSE WE FACE DEATH EVERY DAY!
WELL IT IS TO ME!
IT'S NOT COMPEN-SATION FOR DEATH!
THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT IT'S MERELY A BONUS!
PUTTING MY LIFE ON THE LINE AND ABANDONING MY WOMANHOOD IS THE LIFESTYLE I'VE CHOSEN! AND YOU'RE SAYING THAT'S ONLY WORTH FIVE ZEROES?! MONEY ISN'T THE ONLY THING I CARE ABOUT, YOU KNOW! ALL I WANT YOU TO DO IS UNDERSTAND MY POSITION! THAT'S ALL!
BUT IF WE DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY, THEN WHERE DOES THAT MONEY GO, HUH?!
SFX SLAM!
SX. CLICK
PLEASE CONTACT THE HQ AND HAVE THEM RE-CONSIDER OUR ORIGINAL REQUEST

WOW, MIKA... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD ARGUE WITH THE BOSS LIKE THAT!
SFX: HOO...
RIGHT?
BUT MIKA, I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE MONEY.
I JUST TOLD HIM THE TRUTH.
OH? BUT I HAVEN'T HIDDEN ANY-THING FROM YOU.
NO, WHAT I MEAN IS.. YOU'RE MY PARTNER, AND I HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU
OF COURSE I DO. I'M A WOMAN, AFTER ALL...
TELL ME WHY, MIKA...
YOU WEREN'T JUST DRAWN HERE BY THE DANGEROUS WORK AND HIGH PAY, WERE YOU?!
WHY DID YOU APPLY TO WORK HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, THEN?


THAT CROSS IS FROM YOUR PAST, ISN'T IT? IT BEARS SOME SAD MEMORY.
...
AND THAT SILVER CROSS THAT YOU ALWAYS PUT UNDER YOUR PILLOW WHEN YOU SLEEP... WHAT IS THAT THING?
SFX SLIP

Five years ago, in Sakata, Yamanashi... a truly hellish incident took place...


After our parents passed away, my younger brother and I worked hard to maintain the small house our father had left us
With our father's life insurance, and money from our part-time jobs we were able to support ourselves as we kept going to school and tried to lead a normal life of our own

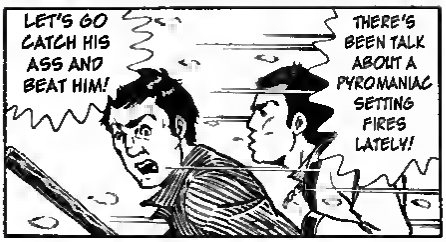

However, during my second year of high school, and Tatsuo's first year of middle school...
I'M OFF!
YOU FORGOT SOME-THING, TACCHAN!

BE CAREFUL ON YOUR BIKE!
OK, SEE YOU LATER!
OH! WHOOPS!
IF YOU FORGET YOUR MUFFLER, YOU COULD GET SICK!
IT'S COLD OUT-SIDE!
OK!
Meanwhile, I was running errands for a nearby cafeteria every day after school...
Tatsuo was working as a news-paper delivery boy...

NEWS-PAPER!
SFX: DASH
THREE MORE HOUSES!
SFX: DASH DASH
WHAT'S THAT MAN DOING OVER THERE?
HM?!
HAA!
HOO!

ARSON!
AHH! FIRE!
SFX: POOF
WH- WHAT'S GOING ON?
SFX: CLANG
GOD DAMMIT!
ARSON! HE'S GET- TING AWAY!
AHH! HE'S RUNNING!
FIIIRE! ARSO- OOON!
SFX: DASH

OH NO!
IT'S AN ARSONIST! HE JUST RAN THAT WAY!


LET'S GO CATCH HIS ASS AND BEAT HIM!
THERE'S BEEN TALK ABOUT A PYROMANIAC SETTING FIRES LATELY!

SFX: DASH

I SAW HIM LIGHT THE FIRE WITH MY OWN EYES!
WHICH WAY DID HE GO, KID?!

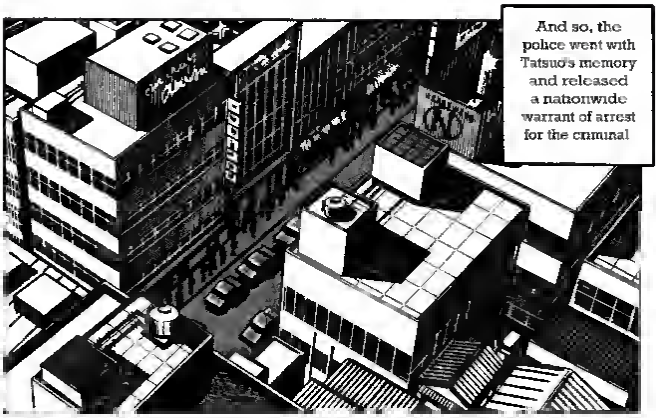
HUH? WHERE DID HE GO?!

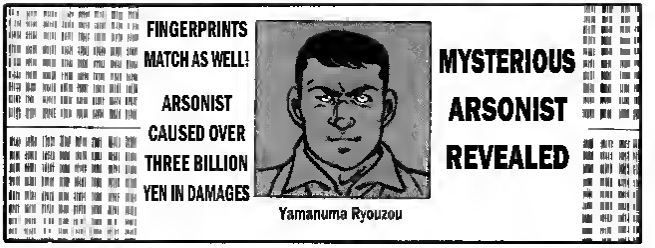
DAMMIT! HE GOT AWAY!
HE'S NOT OVER HERE EITHER!
ALRIGHT! WE'VE GOTTA MAKE HIM PAY!
LET'S COMB THE WHOLE AREA!
HELLO? IS THIS THE POLICE?
OKAY! I'LL GO TO THE POLICE!

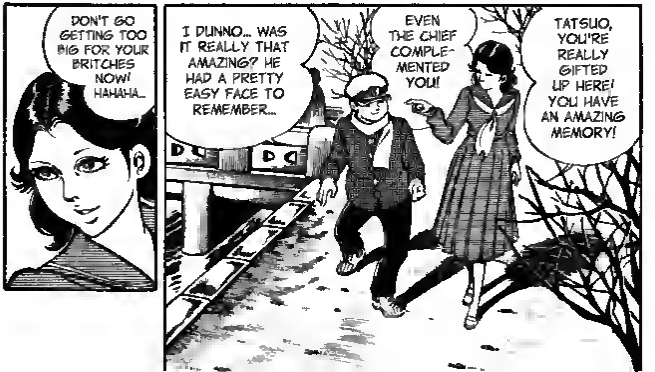
SIGN Hino
火野
SFX RRRRING
HELLO? THIS IS THE HINO RESI-DENCE.
IT'S ME, TATSUO! I'M AT THE POLICE STATION RIGHT NOW!
THE POLICE STATION ?!

WHAT? AN ARSONIST?!
DON'T WORRY! I JUST SAW AN ARSONIST SETTING A FIRE. AND I WENT TO THE POLICE TO GET HELP! THEY ALSO WANT ME TO HELP THEM CREATE A COMPOSITE PICTURE WHEN I GET OUT OF SCHOOL!
PHEW.. THAT REALLY SCARED ME..
I JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD CALL YOU AND LET YOU KNOW..
ALL RIGHT.. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
COMPOSITE ROOM

HIS CHEEKS AREN'T THAT POINTY
SFX: CLICK
SFX: CLICK
NO, HIS FACE IS LONGER..
LOOK CAREFULLY NOW, TATSUO.
NOPE..
SFX: CLICK
SFX: CLICK
STOP THERE !!!
AHH!
THAT'S HIM, I'M SURE OF IT!
THIS ONE!


And so, the police went with Tatsuo's memory and released a nationwide warrant of arrest for the criminal


FINGERPRINTS MATCH AS WELL!
ARSONIST CAUSED OVER THREE BILLION YEN IN DAMAGES
Yamanuma Ryouzou
MYSTERIOUS ARSONIST REVEALED

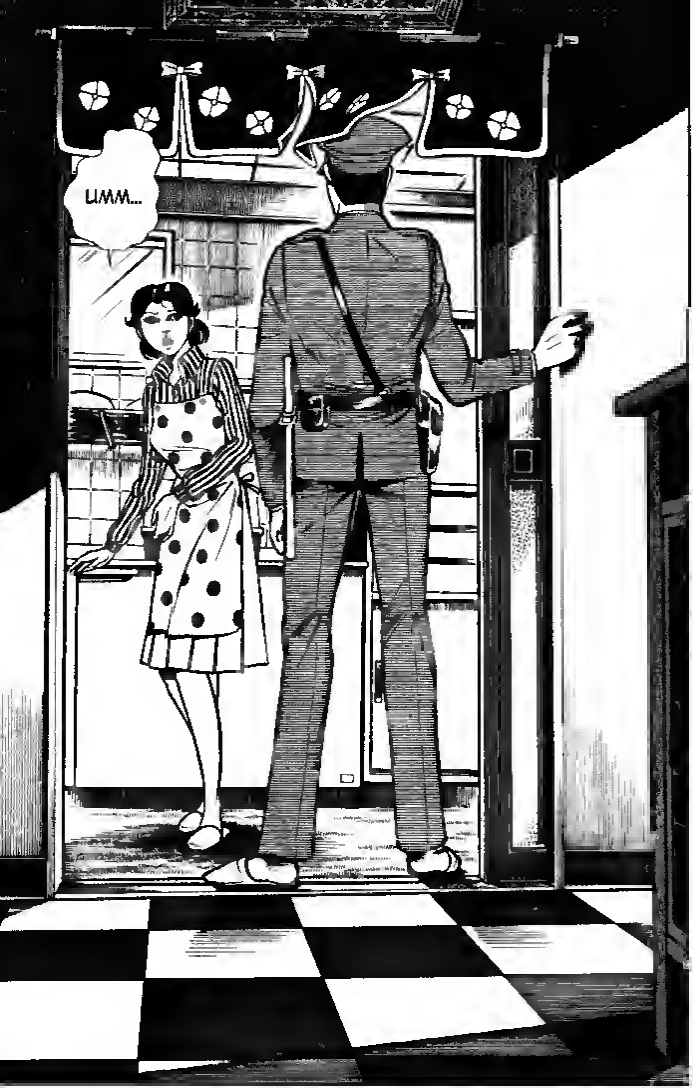

DON'T GO GETTING TOO BIG FOR YOUR BRITCHES NOW! HAHAHA...
I DUNNO... WAS IT REALLY THAT AMAZING? HE HAD A PRETTY EASY FACE TO REMEMBER...
EVEN THE CHIEF COMPLE-MENTED YOU!
TATSUO, YOU'RE REALLY GIFTED UP HERE! YOU HAVE AN AMAZING MEMORY!

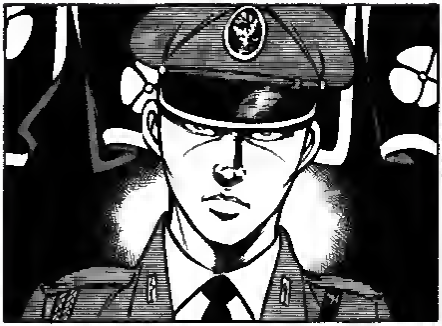
OKAY, OKAY, IF YOU SAY SO...
NO I WASN'T! AND BESIDES, I'VE TRAINED MY LEGS DELIVERING NEWS-PAPERS!
I'LL BET YOU WERE JUST SCARED!
I PROBABLY COULD'VE CAUGHT HIM IF I HAD CHASED HIM AS SOON AS I SAW HIM...

SFX. DING DONG
COMING!
SFX. DASH
TATSUO, IS THAT YOU? I THOUGHT YOU HAD A GAME TONIGHT.
HM? A POLICE OFFICER ?
SFX. SHAH

OH NO, MY BROTHER JUST HAPPENED UPON HIM, THAT'S ALL.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ASSISTING US IN THE ARSON INCIDENT.
GOOD EVENING, HINO-SAN. I JUST DROPPED BY FROM THE HQ.
YES, HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY TRY TO RETALIATE AGAINST TATSUO, SO I CAME TO CHECK UP ON YOU.
THE TRUTH IS, WE'VE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT YAMANUMA HAS BEEN LURKING AROUND THESE PREMISES RECENTLY.
OKAY, I UNDERSTAND...
I THINK I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND JUST TO BE SAFE.
OH MY... THAT'S SCARY.
TATSUO'S AT SCHOOL RIGHT NOW, PLAYING IN A BASEBALL GAME.

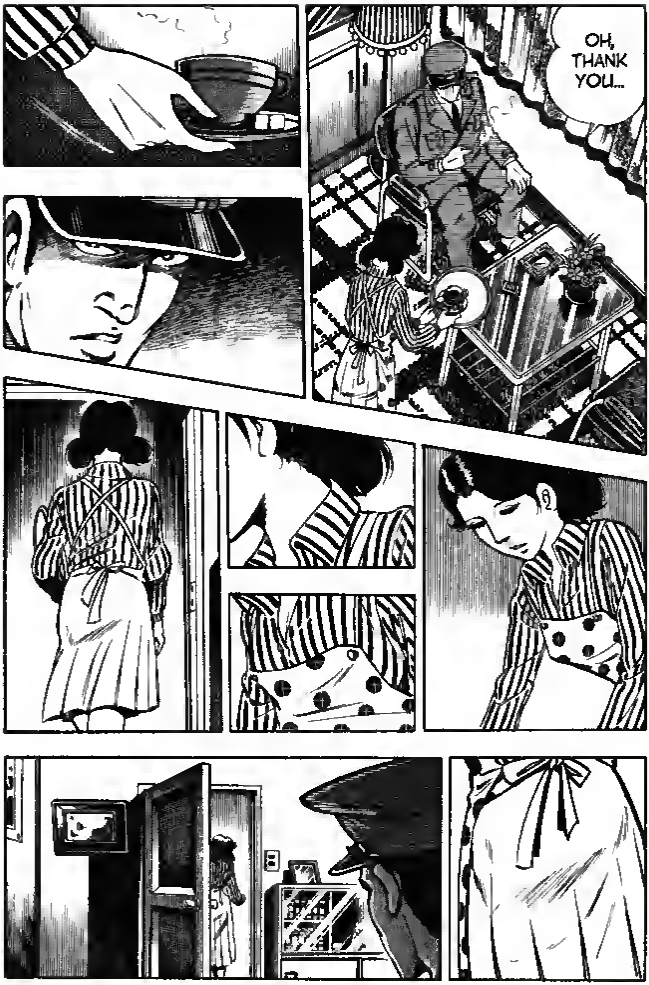
SFX. FSSSH
SFX. CLANG


UMM...

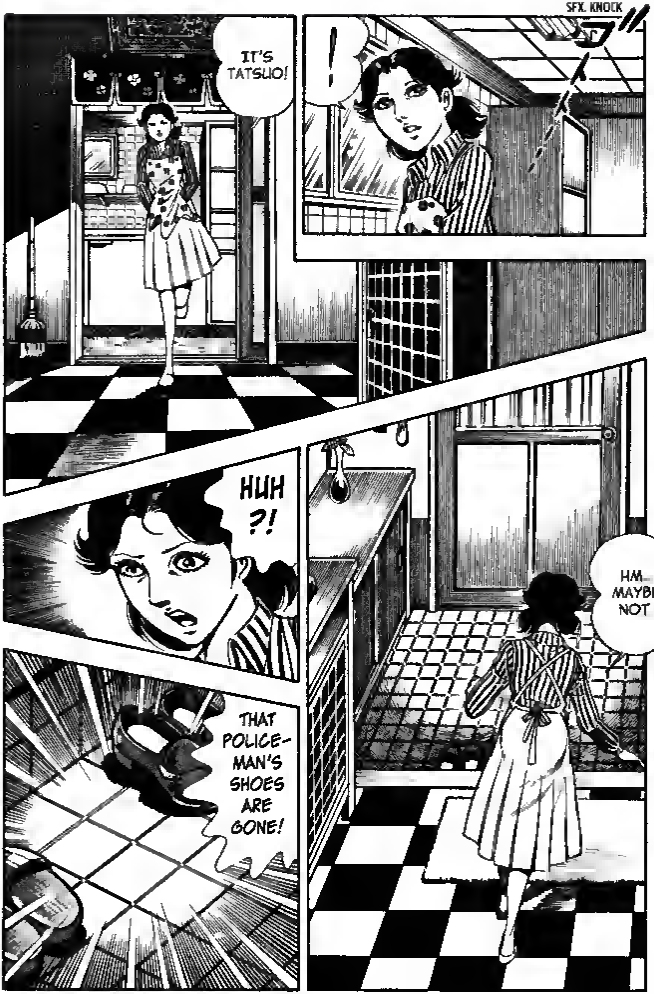


UMM.. IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
NO... EXCUSE ME!
OH, SURE..
DO YOU HAVE ANY MATCHES? I'D LIKE TO SMOKE A CIGARETTE...

THAT WAS SCARY...
THANK YOU...
THAT MAN IS STARTING TO CREEP ME OUT...

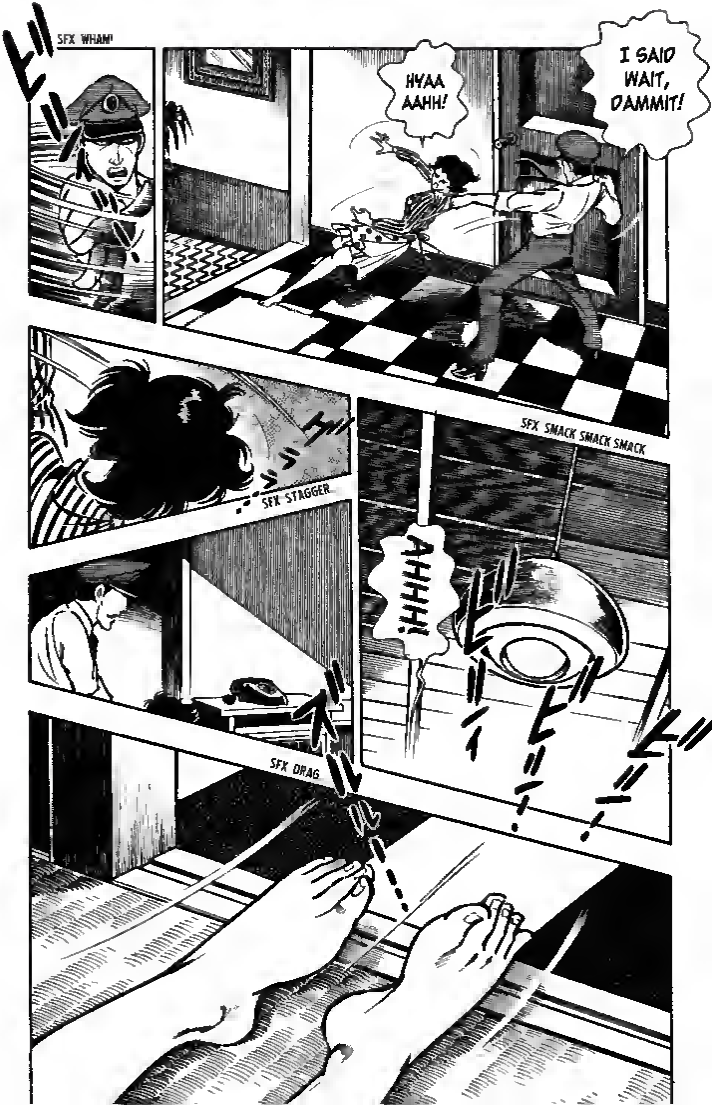

OH, THANK YOU...

I HOPE TATSUO COMES HOME SOON..


IT'S TATSUO!
!
SFX. KNOCK
HUH ?!
HM... MAYBE NOT
THAT POLICE-MAN'S SHOES ARE GONE!

DID HE LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING?
HUH... AHHH...

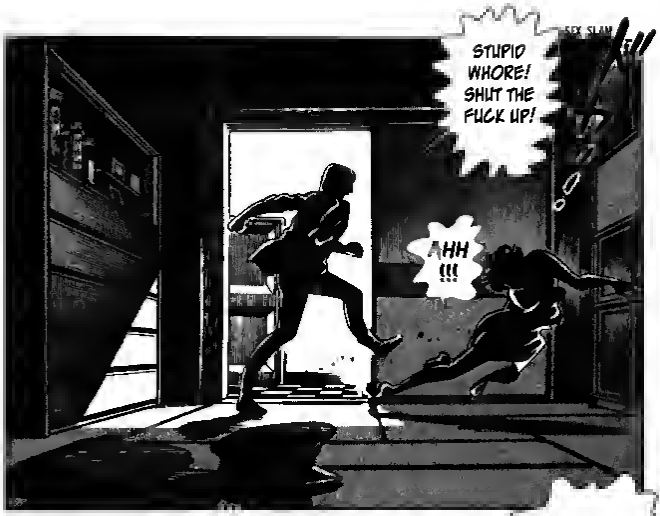
STAY STILL!
NOO OOO!
SFX: DASH
KYAAA!
BE QUIET, OR I'LL STRANGLE YOU!
UUU!
KYAAA! S-SOMEONE, HELP MEEEE!
SFX: DASH
WAIT, YOU BITCH!
SFX: CHOMP


SFX WHAM!
HYAA AAHH!
I SAID WAIT, DAMMIT!
SFX STAGGER
SFX SMACK SMACK SMACK
AHHH!
SFX DRAG

SFX: TOK
SFX: ZZZZIP

HEHE
HE
HEH...
SFX. SLIP
SFX. CLICK

SFX: DING DONG
GGGG!!!
SFX: WHAM
TATSUO!
W-WAIT! BITCH! STAY STILL!
KYA AAA AH!

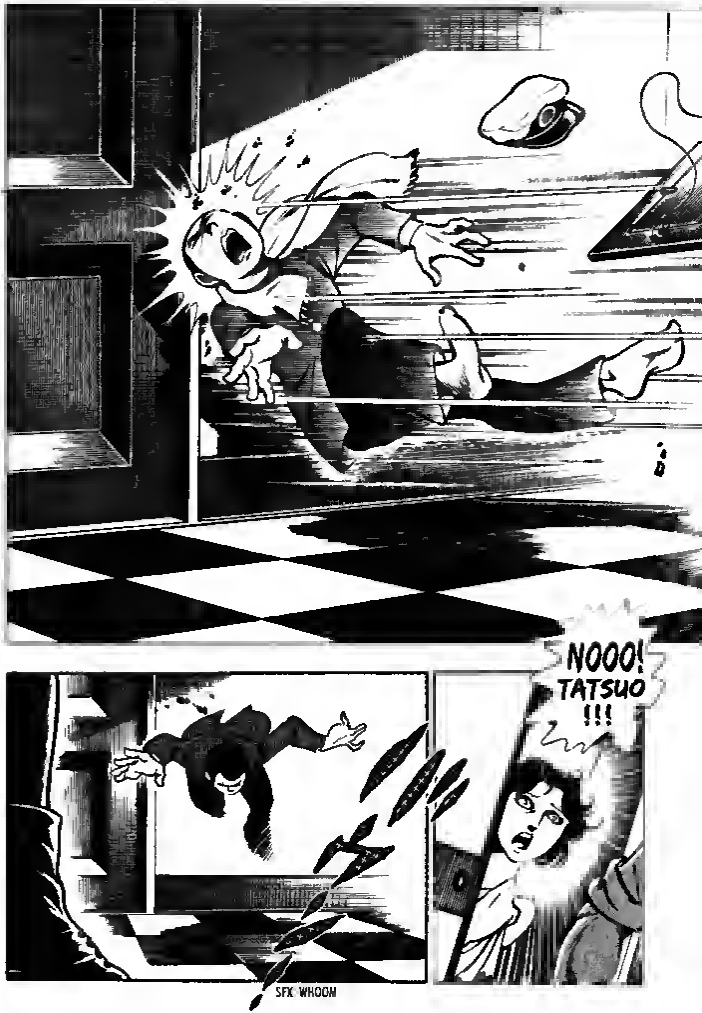

SFX SLAM
STUPID WHORE! SHUT THE FUCK UP!
AHH !!!

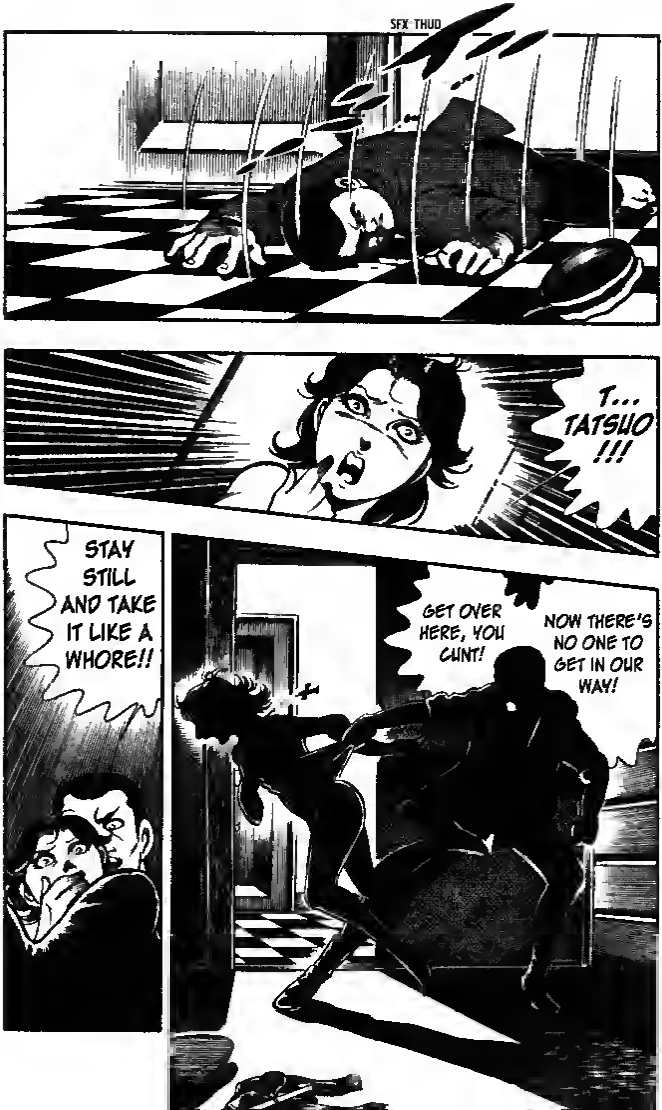
WHAT HAPPENED? OPEN THE DOOR!!
SFX RATTLE
SFX WHAM
IT'S OPEN!
ALRIGHT, I'LL JUST GO IN THROUGH THE WINDOW!

SFX WHAM
WHAT'S WRONG, MIKA? OPEN UP ALREADY!!

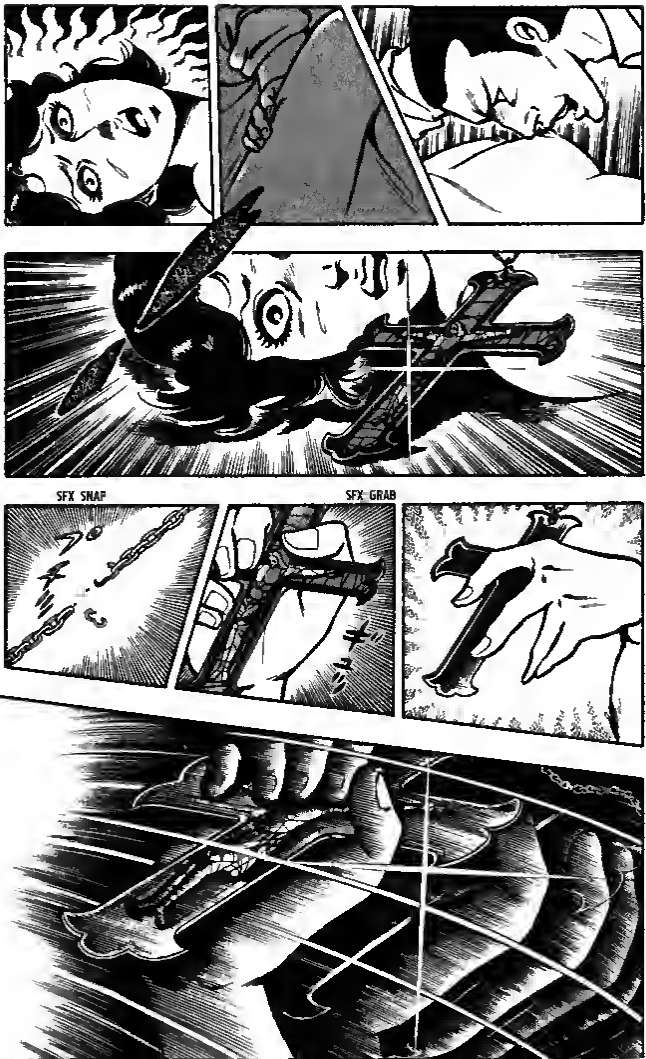
MIKA AAAA !!!
SFX: DASH
AAHH!
SHE'S NOT HERE...
MIKA AAA!
TATSUO! STAY BACK!
IT'S DANGE-ROUS! YOU HAVE TO RUN AWAY!
SFX THUD
SHUT THE FUCK UP!!

SFX DASH
MIKA!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
MIKAAAA!
SFX WHOOM
SFX. CRACK


NOOO!
TATSUO
!!!
SFX: WHOOM


SFX THUD
T... TATSUO !!!
STAY STILL AND TAKE IT LIKE A WHORE!!
GET OVER HERE, YOU CUNT!
NOW THERE'S NO ONE TO GET IN OUR WAY!

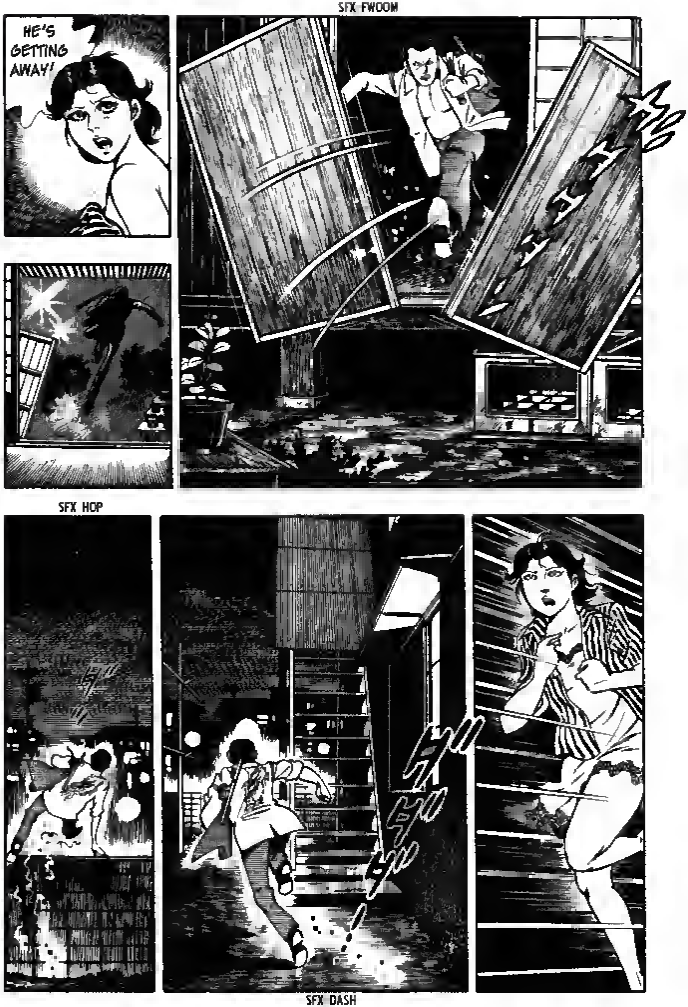
SFX: WHOOM
AAAGGH !!!
SFX: THUD
AAAHH!
UAAHHH!

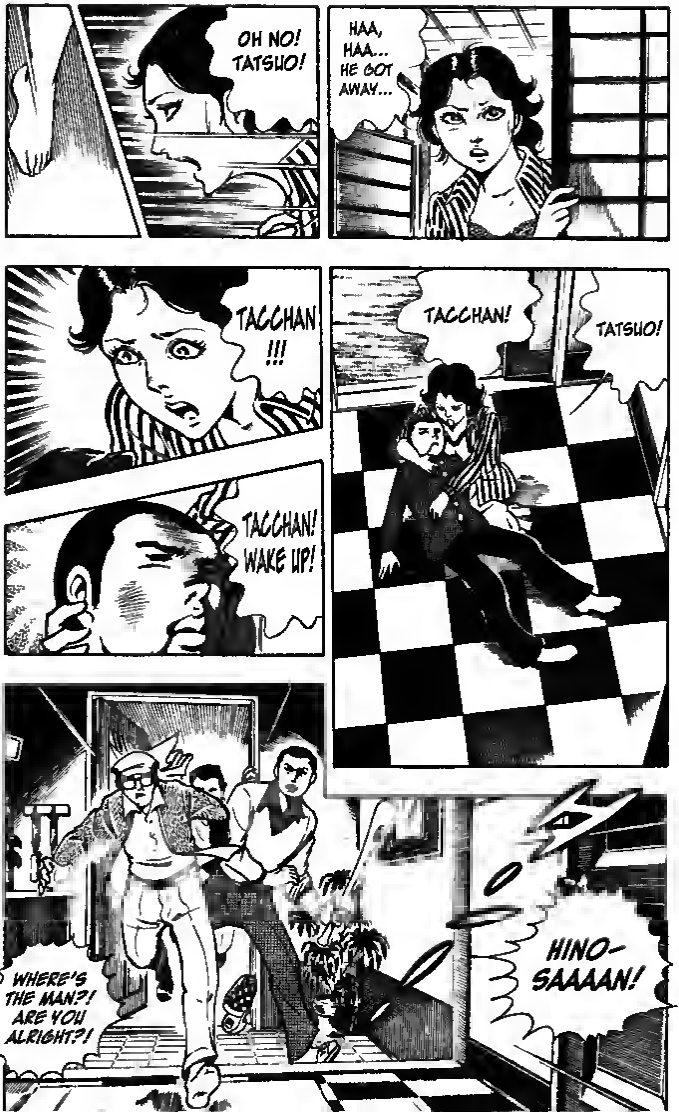

SFX SNAP
SFX GRAB

SFX UAAAHHH
SFX. FWOOM
AAHH!
SFX RRRRRIP

SFX. DASH
UUUU! FUCKING BITCH!
GOD-DAMN WHORE
...
GGGHH
...
W-WAIT! DAMMIT!
SFX. KNOCK

AHHH! HELP ME! A MAN BROKE IN!
HINO-SAN, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SFX KNOCK
HINO-SAN!
WHAT? A MAN?! OPEN THE DOOR!
HINO-SAN! OPEN UP!
SHIT! THE NEIGH-BORS!
SFX RATTLE

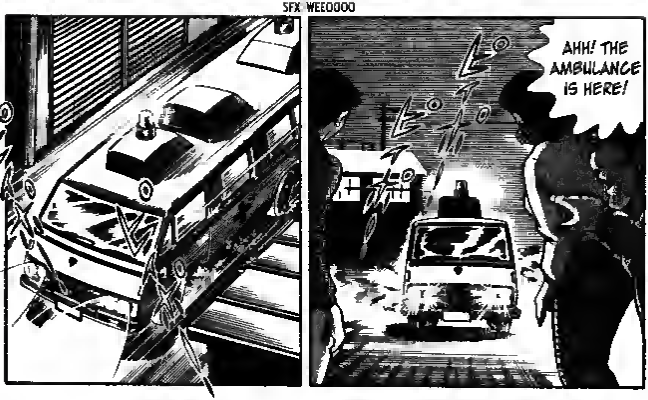

SFX: FWOOM
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
SFX: HOP
SFX: DASH


OH NO! TATSUO!
HAA, HAA... HE GOT AWAY...
TACCHAN !!!
TACCHAN! WAKE UP!
TACCHAN!
TATSUO!
WHERE'S THE MAN?! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
HINO-SAAAAN!

SFX: STOMP
WHERE DID THE MAN GO ?!
AHH! TATSUO-KUN!!
PLEASE! HURRY UP AND CALL A DOCTOR! AND AN AM-BULANCE!
SHIT! HE MUST HAVE RAN OUT THROUGH THERE!

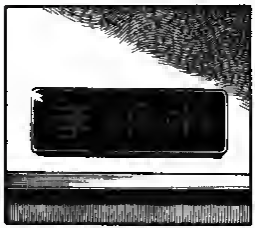
HE'S BADLY WOUNDED! WE NEED TO MAKE A CALL AT ONCE!
HURRY UP AND CALL AN AMBULANCE!
HOW COULD HE GO AFTER THESE TWO?! THAT MONSTER!

SFX: WEEOOOO


AHH! THE AMBULANCE IS HERE!

SIGN: SURGERY

SIGN: CENTRAL HOSPITAL



SFX: SLIDE
T...
TATSUO
?!
SFX: RATTLE

D-
DOCTOR
T...
TATSUO...
AHHH...
I'M SORRY, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.
AAAHHH..
NO...
NOOOO
...
T...
TATSUO
...
HIS HEAD WAS SPLIT OPEN, AND HE WAS BLEEDING INTERNALLY...

IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME!
LOOKS LIKE THE POLICE ARE HERE
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN...
NOOO... TATSUO...
WHERE'S HINO-SAN, THE VICTIM?
WHAT ?!
GET AWAY FROM ME! IT WAS ONE OF YOUR MEN WHO KILLED TATSUO!

M-MISS!
YOU'RE HORRIBLE! HOW COULD YOU... HOW COULD YOU LET HIM DIE LIKE THIS?!
CALM DOWN?! HOW COULD I POSSIBLY CALM DOWN HERE?!
CALM DOWN, AND-
I'M HARA FROM THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION CAN YOU PLEASE TELL US WHAT HAPPENED?

HE ATTACKED ME, AND THEN WHEN TATSUO CAME HOME HE THREW HIM INTO A WALL AND KILLED HIM!
A MAN WEARING AN OFFICER'S UNIFORM KILLED TATSUO!
WHY WOULD AN OFFICER OF THE LAW KILL A LITTLE BOY? THAT'S ABSURD!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! CALM DOWN AND EXPLAIN YOURSELF!
WH-WHAT? IT WAS AN OF-FICER?!

WE'RE HER NEIGHBORS. WHEN WE WENT INSIDE THE HOUSE, THE CRIMINAL HAD ALREADY FLED, AND TATSUO-KUN WAS BLEEDING ON THE GROUND.
WE HEARD A LOT OF LOUD NOISES, THOUGH.
CALM DOWN, I SAID!
IT'S TRUE! YOU NEED TO GO CATCH HIM! HE RAN OUT THE BACK DOOR OF MY HOUSE!

SFX: STAGGER...
AHH!
AHH! HINO-SAN!
HURRY UP AND GO AFTER HIM!
HEY... H-HEY, YOU!
SHE PASSED OUT!

AAAAA
AHHH...

SIGN: Drive Slowly and Safely

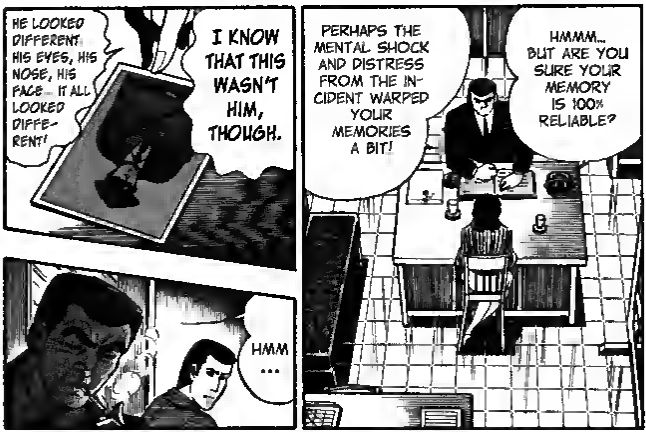
SIGN POLICE

MIS-TAKEN ?!
HINO-SAN, YOU SURELY MUST BE MISTAKEN AN OFFICER COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE ATTACKED YOU!
JUST CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME.
WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE MAN WHOM YOU DESCRIBED BROKE INTO YOUR HOUSE...
BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND A SINGLE CLUE.
WHICH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT THE CRIMINAL MUST HAVE BEEN DISGUISED AS AN OFFICER.
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU ARE THE LONE WITNESS!
AND AS AN OFFICER OF THE LAW, I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT ANY OF MY MEN COULD COMMIT SUCH A HEINOUS ACT.
DIS-GUISED ?!

TO SHUT YOU UP.
B-BUT WHY...
HE PROBABLY DUG UP A LITTLE INFORMATION ON YOU BEFOREHAND, AND KNEW THAT YOU LIVED ALONE WITH YOUR LITTLE BROTHER...
THAT'S RIGHT. HE DRESSED UP AS AN OFFICER AND LIED ABOUT BEING ON PATROL IN ORDER TO GET INSIDE YOUR HOUSE
WH-WHY WOULD HE WANT TO SHUT ME UP?
TO SHUT ME UP?!
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT YAMANUMA DRESSED UP AS AN OFFICER AND CAME INTO MY HOUSE?
YOUR LITTLE BROTHER TATSUO-KUN SAW HIM, CORRECT? THAT'S WHAT ALLOWED US TO DISCOVER THAT HE YAMANUMA RYOUZOU, WAS THE SERIAL ARSONIST
SFX SLIP
YES. HOLD ON A MINUTE. WE PREPARED SOMETHING FOR YOU.
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THIS

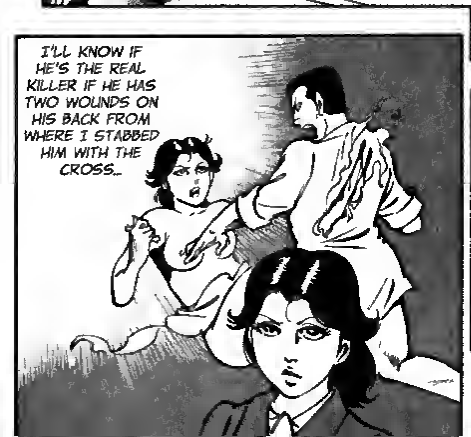
WELL? DOES IT LOOK LIKE HIM?
WE TOOK YAMANUMA'S FACE AND PASTED IT OVER AN OFFICER'S.

THE MAN WHO ATTACKED MY BROTHER AND I WAS NOT YAMANUMA!
NO!

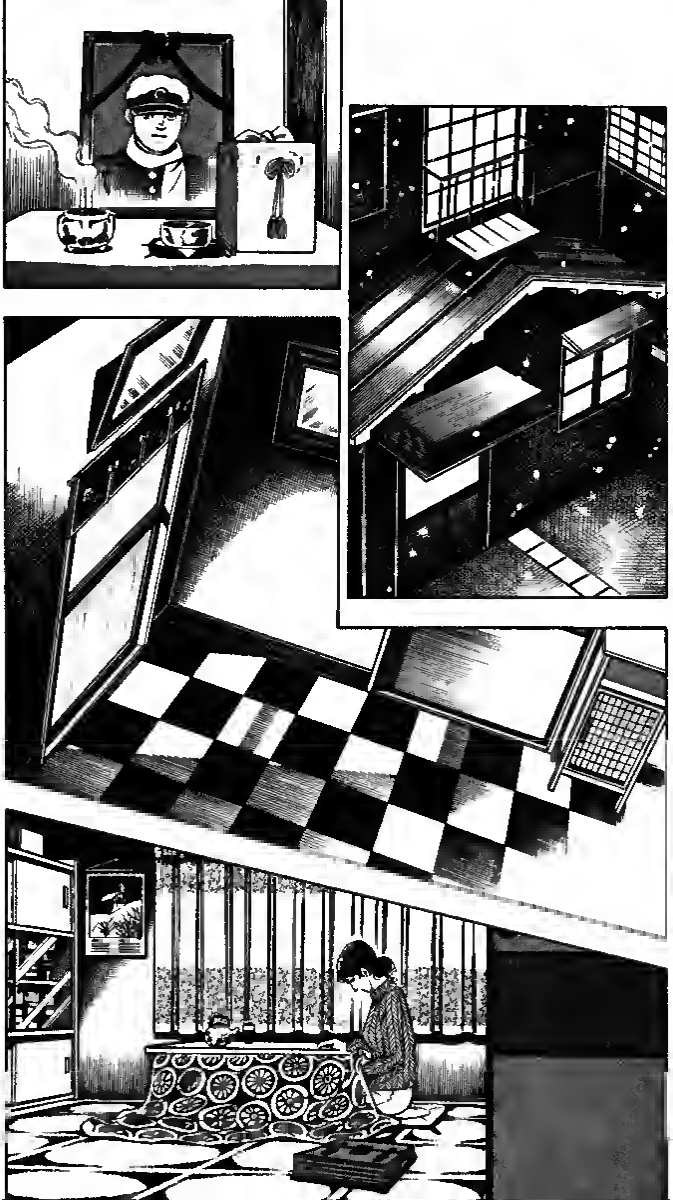

HE LOOKED DIFFERENT! HIS EYES, HIS NOSE, HIS FACE... IT ALL LOOKED DIFFERENT!
I KNOW THAT THIS WASN'T HIM, THOUGH.
HMM ...
PERHAPS THE MENTAL SHOCK AND DISTRESS FROM THE INCIDENT WARPED YOUR MEMORIES A BIT!
HMMM... BUT ARE YOU SURE YOUR MEMORY IS 100% RELIABLE?

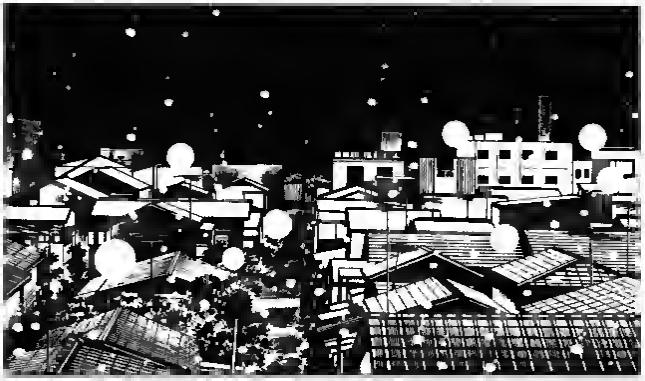
IT'S AB!
YES, THAT REMINDS ME... WE TOOK A SAMPLE FROM THIS CUP TO DETERMINE THE CRIMINAL'S BLOOD TYPE.
YES, BUT... I HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO GET A GOOD LOOK AT HIS REAL FACE I EVEN SERVED HIM TEA...
PEOPLE TEND TO HALLUCINATE SOMETIMES, THOUGH AND REMEMBER, YOU'VE NEVER SEEN YAMANUMA IN PERSON BEFORE.
I KNOW THAT IT WASN'T YAMANUMA WHO ATTACKED US...
I WASN'T HALLUCINATING!
SFX HOO
AND SO IS YAMANUMA'S...

THE CRIMINAL AND YAMANUMA DON'T LOOK ANYTHING ALIKE... BUT PERHAPS I WASN'T SEEING STRAIGHT DUE TO THE MENTAL DISTRESS. BUT HOW COULD THAT BE?
放火犯 山沼良造
EITHER WAY, I WON'T KNOW ANYTHING FOR SURE UNTIL YAMANUMA IS CAUGHT AND MADE TO CONFESS...

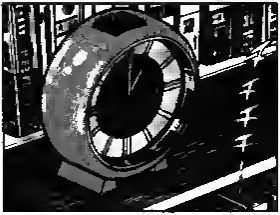

I'LL KNOW IF HE'S THE REAL KILLER IF HE HAS TWO WOUNDS ON HIS BACK FROM WHERE I STABBED HIM WITH THE CROSS...

BUT I WON'T CRY... NOT UNTIL I GET MY REVENGE... HOWEVER IT MAY COME TO ME...
TATSUO... I'M TRULY ALL ALONE NOW...



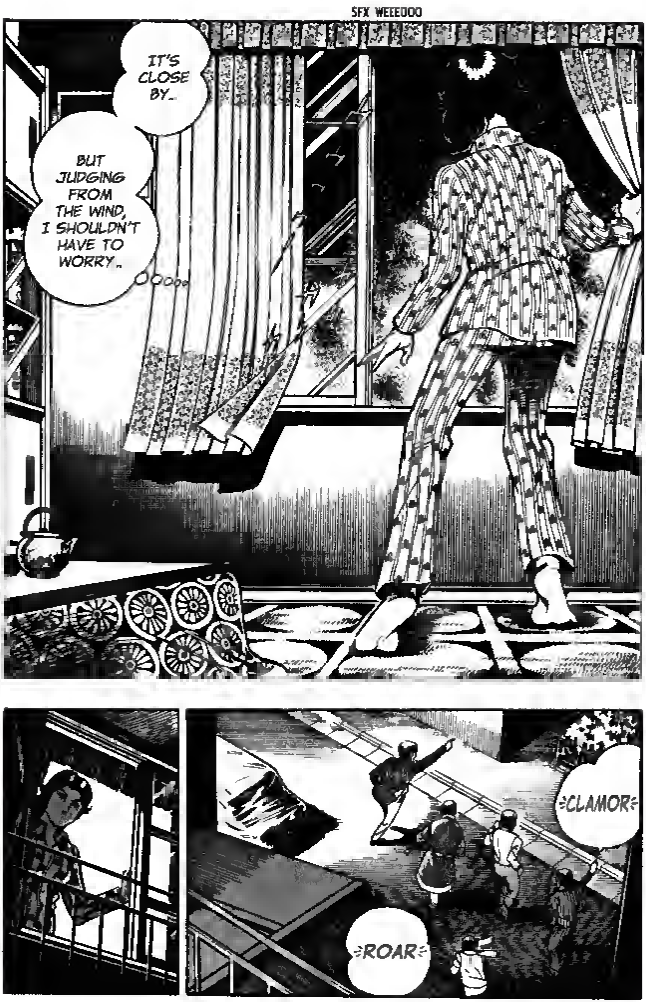


SFX TICK TOCK



SFX RATTLE

SFX: CLANK
WHAT'S THAT NOISE I'M HEARING?
SFX: WEEEOOO...
AHHH! FIRE!!


SFX WEEEOOO
IT'S CLOSE BY..
BUT JUDGING FROM THE WIND, I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY..
Oooo
CLAMOR
ROAR

SFX: GWOHHH
YEAH! SOMEONE HAD TO HAVE SET THAT FIRE!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN THAT AR-SONIST!
ゴオオオー
BUT I THOUGHT THAT VAULT WAS DESERTED!
THAT'S THE TAKARACHO VAULT! IT'S REALLY BURNING UP!
THE ARSONIST?!
THAT MEANS YAMA-NUMA'S HERE...

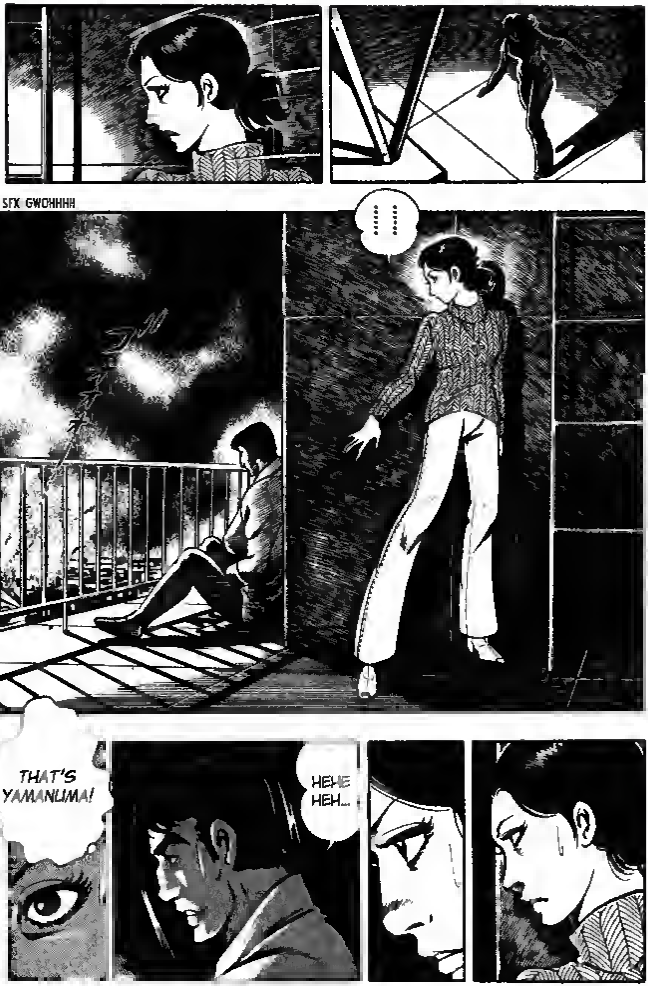
SFX: DASH
SFX: WEEEOOOO

SFX GWOHHHH
HEY, YOU! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO IN THERE!
SFX GWOHHHH

NO, WAIT! HELP ME CARRY MY THINGS OUT FIRST!
HURRY UP AND PUT IT OUT!
SFX GWOHHH
AAAHHH! HURRY, QUICK! THE FIRE'S SPREADING TO MY HOUSE!
PUT OUT THE FIRE! OH NO... IT'S GOING TO COLLAPSE!
EVERYTHING'S BURNING UUUUP!

SFX: DASH
SFX: CLACK

SFX: DASH


SFX GWOHHHH
.....
THAT'S YAMANUMA!
HEHE HEH...

IT'S ALL GONNA BUUUR-RRN!
AAAHH.. HEHEHEH... THIS IS THE BEST... BUUURRRN! BURN TO THE GROUUUND!
SFX GWOHHH
I NEED TO FIND SOLID PROOF, THOUGH.
YAMANUMA ISN'T THE ONE WHO KILLED TATSUO... HE DOESN'T EVEN RESEMBLE HIM!
OH YEAH... MMMM...
THAT'S WHAT HE'S BEEN SETTING ALL THESE FIRES FOR?
SFX. DASH

WH-WHERE IS HE?!
I'M NOT! PLEASE, COME WITH ME AND YOU'LL SEE!
SIGN. Arson Defense
Y-YOU'RE NOT KIDDING AROUND, ARE YOU?!
WH-WHAT?! YAMANUMA? THE AR-SONIST?!
ALL RIGHT!
ON THE ROOF OF THAT BUILDING!
SFX DASH
TURN OFF THE LIGHTS.
LET'S SPLIT UP INTO TWO GROUPS AND CORNER HIM! DON'T LET HIM SEE YOU!
OK! ONCE WE GET HIM, THERE'S GONNA BE HELL TO PAY!

AHH!
SFX: TOK
"-ッ"!
HUH?! TH-THEY FOUND ME?!
AHH! THEY'RE OVER HERE TOO!

!
I NEED TO ESCAPE.. IF THEY CATCH ME, THEY'LL KILL ME!
I... I'M SUR-ROUND ED!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
GET AWAY!
AHH! HE'S CLIMBING UP THE SIDE!
PULL HIM DOWN!
SFX: ROAR
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
SFX: DASH
CATCH HIM!
THIS WAY! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
SFX: HOP

THEY'RE OVER HERE TOO!
AAHHH!
SFX. WAAAHH
AAHH!
AAHHH!
SFX. LEAP
O-OKAY ...

SFX: CRUMBLE
WAAAAAAHHH!
SFX: THUD
AAH!

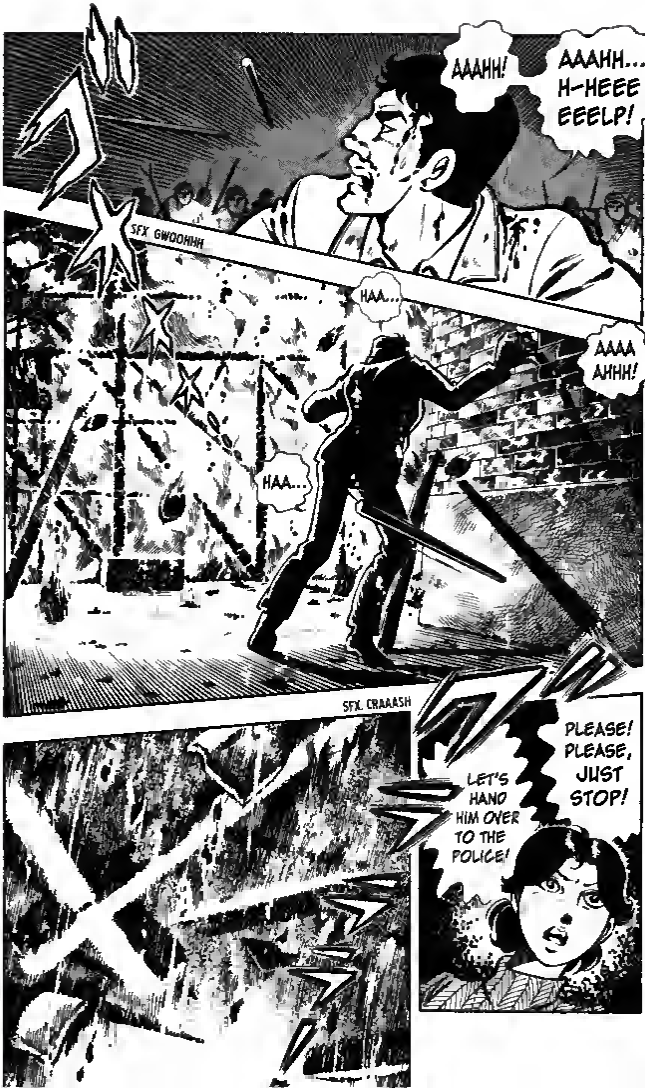
UAAH...
AHHH...
AHH... PLEASE, CALL SOMEONE... PLEASE...
H... HELP ME! GET A DOCTOR ...
SURE. BUT BEFORE I DO THAT, SHOW ME YOUR BACK!

P-PLEASE... JUST CALL A DOCTOR... OR AN AMBULANCE... QUICKLY...
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
JUST...
I KNOW.. I'LL CALL FOR ONE RIGHT AWAY.

SFX: RRRIP
I NEED TO SEE IF YOU HAVE ANY SCARS ON YOUR BACK!
WHAT?! THERE AREN'T ANY MARKS AT ALL!
I KNEW I WASN'T HALLUCI-NATING!
THE POLICE'S THEORY WAS COMPLETELY WRONG!
YAMANUMA WASN'T THE MAN WHO ASSAULTED ME AND KILLED MY BROTHER...
IF THE POLICE ARREST HIM, THEY'LL UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WERE WRONG!
UUU...
I'M GOING TO GO CALL AN AMBU-LANCE NOW!

OH NO! IF THEY FIND HIM, THEY'LL PROBABLY KILL HIM!
LOOK AROUND OVER THERE!
THIS WAY! HE FELL OVER THERE!
THERE HE IS! HE'S RIGHT OVER THERE!
AAHH!
SFX DASH
SFX DASH
KILL HIM! LYNCH HIS ASS! HE BURNED DOWN MY HOUSE!
IT'S YAMANIIMA! THE PYRO-MANIAC!
HERE HE IS!

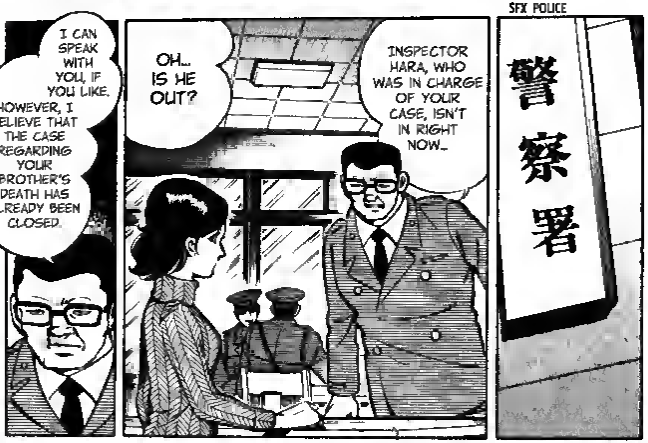
HAA...
HAA...
SFX DASH
AFTER HIM! KILL HIM!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! HE'S TRYING TO RUN AGAIN!
AAAHH.. HAA, HAA...
SFX STAGGER
AAAHH!
WAIT! YAMANUMA'S INJURED! HE CAN'T RUN ANYMORE!
DON'T LYNCH HIM! WE SHOULD HAND HIM OVER TO THE POLICE!
HE EVEN KILLED PEOPLE WITH HIS FIRES!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! HE BURNED UP ALL OF MY ASSETS!


AAAHH!
AAAHH... H-HEEE EEELP!
SFX GWOOHHH
HAA...
AAAA AHHH!
HAA...
SFX CRAAASH
PLEASE! PLEASE, JUST STOP!
LET'S HAND HIM OVER TO THE POLICE!

ガガガガ
SFX DWOOOOH
自衛隊
AAA AHH!
AAHH ...!

W-WE CAN'T LET HIM DIE YET! SAVE HIM!
AHHH! SAVE HIM! QUICK, SAVE HIM!
SAVE HIIIM!
ST-STAY BACK! ARE YOU NUTS?!
SFX GWOHHHHH
CALM DOWN, LADY! IF YOU RUN IN THERE YOU'LL DIE!
NOW THEY'RE JUST GOING TO PUT EVERYTHING ON HIM... AAAHHH!
YOU CAN'T LET HIM DIE! WE HAVE TO TURN HIM IN TO THE POLICE, OR ELSE THEY'LL CLOSE THE CASE ON MY BROTHER'S KILLER!

HIS TESTIMONY AND HIS BACK WOULD BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE POLICE THAT THE KILLER'S STILL OUT THERE...
AAAHHH! I NEEDED HIM...
SFX THUD
IF HE BURNS UP THEN I'LL LOSE MY ONLY HOPE!!
SFX BEEP BEEP
SFX GWOHHH

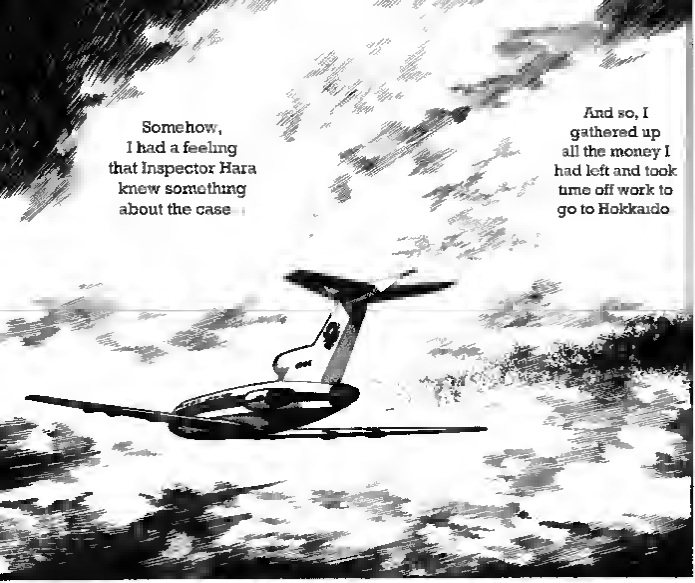

SFX POLICE
警察署
INSPECTOR HARA, WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF YOUR CASE, ISN'T IN RIGHT NOW...
OH... IS HE OUT?
I CAN SPEAK WITH YOU, IF YOU LIKE. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT THE CASE REGARDING YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH HAS ALREADY BEEN CLOSED.

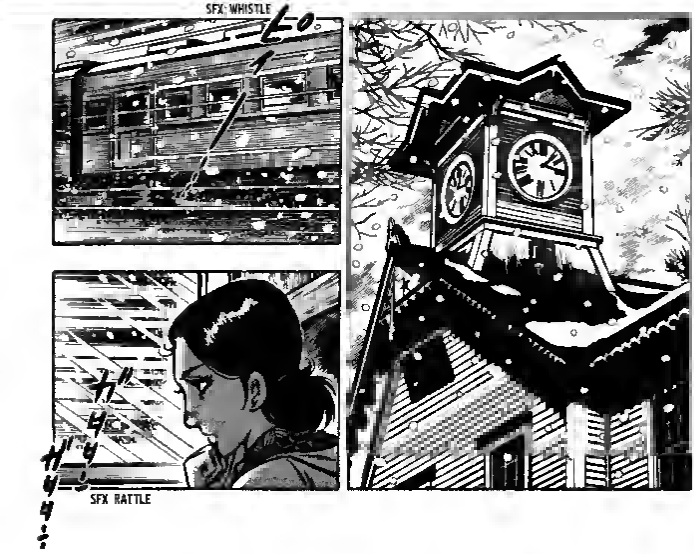
ALTHOUGH, HE MAY HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE, AFTER BEING CHASED BY SO MANY PEOPLE.
IT'S TRUE THAT HE HASN'T BEEN ARRESTED, BUT HE IS DEAD. IT WAS YAMANUMA, THE ARSONIST.
BUT MY BROTHER'S KILLER STILL HASN'T BEEN ARRESTED!
CLOSED ?!
HMMM.. BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SEEN HIS BACK, CORRECT? ARE THERE ANY OTHER WITNESSES?
BEFORE HE DIED IN THE FIRE, I LOOKED AT HIS BACK! HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF THE WOUNDS I INFLICTED WITH MY CROSS!
YAMANUMA IS NOT THE MAN WHO KILLED MY BROTHER!
NOW THAT YAMANUMA IS DEAD, AND HIS BACK IS BURNED BEYOND ALL RECOGNITION, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PURSUE THAT ANGLE.
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T TRUST MY EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT?
OF COURSE I DO HOWEVER, THE POLICE REQUIRE MATERIAL EVIDENCE IN ORDER TO ACT. AND MULTIPLE WITNESSES ARE MORE RELIABLE THAN A SINGLE ONE

HMM... BUT WE AT THE POLICE FORCE ARE THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT HE WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED YOUR BROTHER.
MY BELIEF WAS ONLY REINFORCED BY THE FACT THAT YAMANUMA HAD NO SCARS ON HIS BACK
BUT... I SAW THE KILLER WITH MY OWN EYES AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IT WASN'T YAMANUMA...
YOU... YOU'RE STILL A CHILD. HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW YOU ACTUALLY WOUNDED HIM BADLY ENOUGH?
BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE THE WOUNDS I GAVE THE KILLER!
UNFORTUNATELY, THOUGH, HE DIED IN THE FIRE. SO THE CASE IS CLOSED...
A BAD DREAM ?!
YOU MAY HAVE JUST HAD A BAD DREAM AND MISTAKEN IT WITH REALITY
PLEASE, DON'T GET UPSET...

LIKE I SAID, THE POLICE REQUIRE MATERIAL EVIDENCE TO ACT! THAT IS ALL!
THAT'S PREPOS-TEROUS!
YOU JUST WANT TO BLAME THE MURDER ON YAMANUMA BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT THE POLICE TO LOOK BAD!
!
LONG GONE ?!
HE'S LONG GONE, MISS.
HUH? INS-PECTOR HARA?!
UMM, EXCUSE ME, MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION? WHEN DO YOU THINK INSPECTOR HARA WILL BE BACK?

MURORAN... HOKKAIDO...
IT JUST HAPPENED ALL OF A SUDDEN LAST WEEK.
HOKKAIDO ?!
I THINK HE WENT TO A STATION IN MURORAN CITY.
YEAH, HE GOT TRANSFERRED TO HOKKAIDO.
HE SAID THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO SOLVE MY BROTHER'S CASE..
WHY WOULD INSPECTOR HARA GO ALL THE WAY TO HOKKAIDO? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
I WONDER WHAT HE SCREWED UP THIS TIME?
THE HQ REALLY LIKES TO THROW HIM AROUND.
WHO KNOWS..
I'M GOING TO HOKKAIDO... NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME... NO MATTER WHAT DANGER AWAITS... I NEED TO AVENGE MY BROTHER!
I'M STARTING TO GET A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS... LIKE SOMETHING MUCH LARGER IS AT PLAY HERE... SOMETHING INSIDE THE POLICE FORCE ITSELF...


Somehow, I had a feeling that Inspector Hara knew something about the case
And so, I gathered up all the money I had left and took time off work to go to Hokkaido


SFX: WHISTLE
SFX: RATTLE

CROCODILE PRECINCT VOL. 2 END

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